

CANDIDATES AT LAURENS.

THE POLITICAL MEETING GOOD NATURED AND ORDERLY.

Candidates Continue Their Charges Along Lines Laid Out on Previous Occasions.

Laurens, Aug. 13.—An audience of about 1,500 good natured and orderly citizens of Laurens county, a large percentage of them women, listened here today with close attention and with spontaneous bursts of approval to the speeches of the candidates for State offices. They accorded a warm welcome especially to the sons of Laurens county, Robert A. Cooper and William C. Irby, Jr., candidates for governor, and J. H. Wharton, candidate for railroad commissioner. Flowers also were given in the greatest profusion.

Robert A. Cooper of Laurens was given an ovation by his fellow townspeople as he said:

"It is a real pleasure for me on this occasion to extend to the members of the State campaign party a genuine welcome to my home town and the grand old county of Laurens, a county that has never failed to do her duty as she saw it. You are standing today on historic ground consecrated by the memory of heroes in five wars and their descendants are facing you today, worthy sons of worthy sires. It gives me a peculiar pleasure to extend a cordial, heartfelt greeting to my competitors in the race for governor of the proud old State of South Carolina.

"I shall not discuss here the important issues that are before us, but give my time to our honored guests. But you will pardon me in saying that in seeking this high office I am actuated by my great love for the State of my birth, the land of my childhood and my home until I shall sleep upon the hillside yonder. In the language of the immortal and classic Virgil, 'As long as the river flows on to the sea, as long as the shadows fall upon the mountain side, as long as the heavens feed the stars,' just so long will the welfare and honor of the old Palmetto State be my sacred charge, whether as governor or as private citizen in the humble walks of life.

"Again, gentlemen, I bid you welcome to our city and county. The keys are turned over to you. If you do not see what you want, ask for it."

He was showered with bouquets and the audience again cheered as he feelingly thanked them for their emblems of love.

William C. Irby, Jr., of Laurens was also accorded a generous welcome as he arose and said:

"As the question has been asked, why Mr. Cooper and I are in this race, I wish to answer: Mr. Cooper is my personal friend, and an honest man, and there is nothing in reason that I would not do for him, but we represent different views in politics. Ask who is supporting him here and consider the fact that a great daily paper, owned or controlled by one of the biggest and most powerful bankers in this State, is so afraid that the people will not know for whom to vote that it carries his name in big type, with instructions to vote for him, at the head of its editorial page. If he is not with them why are the big financial interests supporting him? The people may at times be disappointed in their men, but the big financial interests never. I will do him justice to say that his entrance into their ranks is so recent that he still realizes the aspirations of his people, and I believe would yield to many just demands, but he could not become a fighter in their cause without alienating many of his present supporters and being distrusted by the people.

"You know where I have stood for 12 years. You have trusted me, and two years ago, in one of the bitterest fights this county has had in years, although my enemies predicted that I would be overwhelmingly defeated, you elected me, the only one on the first ballot with nine men in the race. After your loyalty to me after the legislature had turned down nearly everything you sent me there to work for would I not have been a coward if I had laid down on the job and not appealed to the people of this State to put me in a position that when I call on the legislature for the passage of laws that they will know that it is not mine but the voice of the people speaking to them through me? Because of my stand for the rights of the people I have received many bitter cuts. I have often been in your midst, with a heavy heart, but you did not know it. I have been arming myself with the sword of truth and justice, and there are men here that can bear witness that in this campaign my thrusts have sunk deep in the financial octopus that is fastening itself upon the people. You, my friends, have ever protected me from slander and calumny and should I be elected governor, while busy fighting for laws for the protection of my people, I will do as in the past, leave my enemies to the tender mercies of my friends.

"Whether elected or not, I know

that I have started a movement that all the wealth, power and trickery of the financial oligarchy can't stop."

John G. Richards said that "The State has been unfair to him. He said that the paper was trying to make him appear as a man who trims to every breeze. 'On the question of liquor,' he said, 'I will subvert my opinion to the opinion of the people. I would undertake to carry out your decrees even if it were contrary to the dictates of my own conscience.'"

He charged that Mr. Sims misrepresented him grossly when he stated that Mr. Richards had tried to repeal the lien law. "I am a poor man," he continued, "and I am making my campaign on borrowed money. I am backed by the farmers' union, of which I have been a member for many years."

He upheld his work in establishing the immigration bureau saying that it was of great benefit to the farmers as out of it grew the present department of agriculture, commerce and industries.

"I say to you that any man or set of men who say that I swing from one side to another for political preference says something that is absolutely false. I want my opponents and critics to give me credit for honesty of purpose."

He went on to say that the people have a right to know how a gubernatorial candidate stands in politics, as the governor is the head of the State Department.

"Mr. Richards has kicked up a dust," said Charles Carroll Simms, "and blurred the issues. His actions speak louder than words. The records show that he introduced measures to repeal the lien law."

He went on to speak of his work in presenting the bill permitting chattel mortgages.

Mr. Simms said that Gov. Blease after his first election announced his candidacy for the United States senate. He again asked that Mr. Richards declare himself on his 1912 vote. "I want to assert," said Mr. Richards, "that though I would be proud to be kin to Senator Tillman. I am not kin to him. Nor am I kin to Mr. Gonzales." This was brought out by a statement from Mr. Sims that he had heard that Mr. Richards was related to Mr. Tillman. He proceeded to attack Mr. Richards on his "recent conversion to Bleaselsm" and his various political friendships.

Charles A. Smith spoke at length in favor of a 2-cent passenger rate on railroads, saying that they had made large profits. He advocated a system of rural credits.

"While I was mayor of my own town," said Mr. Smith, "the blind tigers did not flourish there." Then he told of his stand in favor of a strict enforcement of the laws. He went on to say that he favored submitting to the people the question of prohibition. He called attention to the advance in education through love and not through legislative enactment.

Mendal L. Smith condemned the Aiken plan of elimination and the undercurrents that resulted from the movement. He repeated that he had not voted for Blease and had held his office as speaker of the house above partisan politics. He outlined his stand in favor of local option, compulsory education, good roads and the enforcement of laws. His opposition to the abuse of the pardoning power was applauded.

Lowndes J. Browning attacked the elimination schemes. He challenged Mr. Manning to show one single vote he had cast in the interest of the people and against the interest of the capitalists during his 12 years in the general assembly. He discussed his tax reforms and his system of rural credit, pointing out the large percentage of negro land owners. He urged that the citizens vote as true sons of South Carolina and lay aside factionalism. He was given two bouquets.

"Ignorance," said John G. Linkseles, "has cost the State of South Carolina more than all other things put together." He protested against the report that people have been putting out that he favored sending a sheriff after a child to place him in school for nine months. He then went into an explanation of the school attendance law he advocates. He was given several bouquets.

John T. Durcan discussed the "system" saying "Mendal L. Smith is the greatest political dodger on earth and John G. Richards has knocked down a whole panel of fence changing sides." He added that "Blease had beaten himself."

Richard I. Manning told of his work in the interest of the farmers and denied the statement that he is a "corporation lawyer." He called attention to the laws regarding fertilizer. He outlined his views on compulsory education, favoring the local option feature.

He said that the issue of Bleas-

THE COTTON SITUATION.

DELEGATES TO SOUTHERN CONGRESS DISCUSS MEANS FOR MEETING CRISIS.

Plan of Safety Calls for Establishment of Standard Grades, Licensed Warehouses and Issue of Sufficient Currency.

Washington, Aug. 13.—The problem of saving the cotton crop of the South in the face of the closing of the European cotton markets by war was taken up today by a Southern Cotton congress committee, which met here in special session. Delegates representing the cotton States organized listened to members of congress who outlined legislative plans for meeting the cotton crisis, discussed the situation and named a committee to thresh out a plan for saving the 13,500,000 bales of cotton which will soon be harvested in the cotton States.

Representative Lever of South Carolina and Senator Hoke Smith of Georgia, who have had charge of the legislative end of the movement to provide federal aid to meet the situation, addressed the congress. They, with Senator Ransdell of Louisiana, formulated the scheme which will probably be put through. It contemplates the establishment of standard cotton grades, government licensed cotton warehouses and the issue of sufficient emergency currency, about \$300,000,000 to be loaned on cotton, to enable the South to hold the surplus of the crop over until market conditions become more nearly normal.

A flood of suggestions and plans were proposed by delegates to the congress. They ranged from proposals that the government valorize cotton or issue currency against it, to plans for the destruction of half of the crop, to maintain the price. All these plans were referred to committees elected by the various State delegations.

The congress adopted a resolution endorsing the amendments to the emergency currency act proposed by Senator Ransdell, which would make emergency currency available on warehouse receipts for cotton as security. Senator Ransdell told the congress that although the treasury department had decided such receipts would be proper security under the present law, he was anxious to make sure of it.

The resolutions committee elected was: R. G. Rhett of South Carolina; W. L. Lewis, Texas; Hugh McLaue, North Carolina; L. Melton, Alabama; E. E. Patten, Virginia; Frank Tomlinson, Arkansas; F. S. Etheridge, Georgia, and J. Frank Adams, Florida.

The committee on legislation included: S. G. Mayfield, South Carolina; E. R. Kone, Texas; A. J. McKinnon, North Carolina; Ray Russell, Alabama; Chas. W. Perry, Virginia; Ben B. Well, Arkansas; H. E. Stockbridge, Georgia and J. D. Smith, Florida.

The congress also named a committee of two members from each of the cotton States to confer with Secretary McAdoo of the treasury as to the financial aspects of the situation.

The congress will meet tomorrow to thresh out the various plans of relief proposed.

When Commissioner Watson of South Carolina, president of the Southern Cotton congress, called the congress into extraordinary session just before noon today, he saw before him gathered in the spacious house caucus room somewhere between 400 and 500 serious minded, determined looking merchants, bankers and cotton men gathered from all over the cotton growing States bent on their mission of saving the cotton crop from going for a song because of the European war situation. It is probable that never before has any set of men come to Washington more determined to work out some plan that will save themselves and their neighbors from financial loss and ruin than those who are here now. They came from each of the States in the South where the fleecy staple is grown and were a most representative body of prosperous citizens.

After Mr. Watson had called the meeting to order Bright Williamson of Burlington, former president of the South Carolina Bankers' association, moved the adoption of a resolution prepared at the request of the people of Sumter on the death of Mrs. Woodrow Wilson. A fervent prayer was offered and the congress was duly declared opened and ready for business.

Mr. Watson then made a brief summary of the cotton situation since 1911, at which time there was serious trouble pending and declared the representatives of the people in congress had started the legislative wheels moving and that it was up to the government to do the rest. After reviewing the situation and explaining just what the present crisis is, Mr. Watson said: "We must make cotton a security rather than a commodity. We must build something substantial from the ground up."

Senator Hoke Smith of Georgia then followed Mr. Watson and explained what the committee of senators and house members had been trying to do since the European war began. He told about the working of the Vreeland-Aldrich currency bill and the new federal reserve law.

Congressman Lever of South Carolina made a timely address dealing with the agricultural aspects of the situation and said that he knew little of the financial and banking side of the matter inasmuch as he was chairman of the house committee which dealt with making crops and not with financing them.

"The governors of the various cotton States," Mr. Lever said, "should convene the legislatures in session immediately for passing a law that will admit of a warehousing plan." He then dealt at length with this subject. He said that a bill for licensing warehouses would undoubtedly be considered by congress immediately. He then referred to his cotton grading bill and said that at the present time cotton grading was done in a careless manner and that his bill would regulate the matter thoroughly.

"With a surplus crop left on hand this year," Mr. Lever said, "we will be faced with the question of cutting down the acreage next year and this is something that must receive attention now."

Congressman Byrnes of South Carolina discussed the financial side of the matter and said that there were three things which should be done. The people should urge the national banks to form national currency associations; State banks should be urged to come into the federal reserve association and the federal reserve association should be put into operation in October or November at the latest.

At the afternoon session Senator Ransdell of Louisiana addressed the congress. He urged that anything like a valorization scheme be put out of mind. He declared that legislation now pending would make it possible to obtain all the money necessary through regular channels and would permit the holding of cotton on farms or at least in the community where it is raised. By making the Vreeland-Aldrich law apply to State banks, to new banks that have no surplus, and to small banks, Senator Ransdell told the congress, he felt certain the greatest obstacle in the present crisis had been met.

As to warehouses, he said, these could be constructed by erecting a platform surrounded by a fence and tarpaulins could be used for covering the cotton.

It developed today that the cotton farmers are now nearer out of debt than at any time since the war and would probably have required less help from the banks this year than in any previous year had not the war come on.

South Carolina was the first of the States to register at the request of Mr. Watson. Among those present were: J. G. Anderson, Rock Hill; Alexander Long, Rock Hill; Bernard Manning, Sumter; E. W. Dabbs, Sumter; J. W. Simpson, Spartanburg; T. B. Thackston, Spartanburg; A. B. Calvert, Spartanburg; R. Goodwyn Rhett, Charleston; J. P. Maybank, Charleston; John L. McLaurin, Bennettsville; Francis H. Weston, Columbia; Bright Williamson, Darlington; R. T. Caston, Cheraw; B. E. Taylor, Columbia; Col. Willie Jones, Columbia; W. B. West, Columbia; P. H. Gadsden, Charleston; B. F. McLeod, Charleston; John M. Kinard, Newberry; Col. William Banks, Anderson; Dr. Wade Stackhouse, Mullins; M. V. Richards, land and industrial agent of the Southern railway; J. E. Pride of the Seaboard and others.

In addition to this list there were perhaps twice as many more present when Mr. Watson called the congress to order and the Palmetto State men were joined at the meeting by all the South Carolina congressmen who are now in Washington.

It is apparent that while the situation is a grave one there is a note of optimism running through the discussions being had here. "What we must do," Dr. Stackhouse said, "is to instill the idea into the minds of the people that the men they have sent here to attend to this business for them are doing all they can and that they remain confident and not become panicky." We are doing all we can, the congressmen are doing their part and the federal government will do all it can to relieve the situation, I am sure."

Others asked to give an expression of opinion declared with Dr. Stackhouse that the people should not lose confidence, but remain optimistic, hoping for the best results. Only in this way, it was said, may the best be had.

STOPS FLOW OF RESERVISTS.

Belgium Notifies Agents No More Are Needed Now.

Washington, Aug. 15.—On instructions from Brussels the Belgian legation has notified its consular agents throughout the United States that no more Reservists are to be returned to Belgium until further notice.

SENATORS IN MARION.

ABOUT 2,000 PEOPLE AT SENATORIAL CAMPAIGN MEETING.

Bleese Even More Vindictive Than Usual, Seemingly Angered by Citation From Newberry Committee.

Marion, Aug. 13.—Approximately 2,000 persons heard the senatorial candidates here today. There was no semblance of disorder, each of the four speakers being accorded a respectful and attentive hearing. The meeting was held in the open on the court house square with J. W. Johnson, county chairman, presiding. The meeting was featured by the governor's vindictive speech, the bitterest utterance of the campaign. He had only come here "to rub it in," he reiterated time and again. A negro, Deas, had once offered for election to congress in this district and throughout his speech again and again the governor heaped his vituperation on the heads of the "Deasites," as the chief executive termed them.

L. D. Jennings was the first speaker. He launched immediately into an arraignment of the governor's record, which was characterized as the "dirtiest ever made by a white man in any white country." Mr. Jennings said he had heard of but three men who would vote for the governor this year who didn't support the governor two years ago. These were an editor of a Hampton county paper, John P. Grace of Charleston and John G. Richards. This candidate dwelt much on that phase of the public record which tended to prove that the governor was always on the side of those who destroyed womanhood. In criticizing the governor for pardoning Emerson, Mr. Jennings said he would have signed the petition for Emerson, too, on the condition that he take the governor out of the State with him.

In the discussion of the "mock trial" of Dr. Leonora Saunders the chief executive was charged with writing the resolution condemning this woman in advance of the trial. "What would the people of Marion county think of Judge Woods, if he should come to Marion to hold court with the decisions written out in advance," was asked. Such a record Mr. Jennings urged, should send the governor back to Newberry to grease harness and wash buggies rather than serve as a promotion to the United States senate. The mayor of Sumter was liberally applauded when he said down.

W. P. Pollock was greeted with a round of lusty cheers when introduced.

Mr. Pollock asked if the governor's refusal to appoint Democratic party nominees to office was strictly in accord with his principles as evidenced in his denunciation of Haskellism.

An auditor reminded Mr. Pollock that Judge Haskell had opposed Senator Tillman.

"Yes," the Cheraw candidate retorted, "and B. R. Tillman hopes to God that we defeat Cole L. Bleese, and we're going to do it."

It was pointed out also that one of the governor's colonels ran for the legislature from Marlboro county on the mixed Republican ticket in 1880. On election day, the speaker pleaded, the people should go to the polls and vote like men and not as cattle with rings in their noses, pulled on by some political machine. Mr. Pollock, too, got much applause when he took his seat.

Senator Smith got a rousing welcome from the Marion people here today. They cheered him to the echo when introduced and persistently insisted that he keep on speaking when his time limit had been reached. Farmers had chipped in and purchased a gold-headed cane for the senator. This was presented by Col. John C. Sellers, who said he had been commissioned to say to the senator that they were proud to have a farmer in the United States senate, and that they knew he had "kept the faith." By far the major portion of the audience today was composed of farmers. Senator Smith's explanation of the new currency law, which provides that cotton shall be accepted as collateral, has doubtless not fallen on more willing ears. Senator Smith explained that he would probably go to Washington tonight to assist in the fight for federal relief in the cotton situation. He wanted the money which would enable the farmers to hold their cotton placed in all the banks, both State and national, and the cotton to be stored at home. He did not favor the plan of having it shipped away and placed in bonded warehouses. The senator did not believe in the restriction of immigration. He wanted aliens shut out altogether.

The speaker said that he had a letter of apology from the leader of one of the large labor organizations of the State, in which this officer acknowledged that he had been misinformed when he urged that the laborers vote against Senator Smith because of his attitude on immigration.

The governor was in the most vindictive mood in which he has appeared during the campaign. The whole object of his visit here today, he said was "to rub it in."

He began by reading a letter from Jos. L. Keitt, county chairman of the Democratic executive committee of Newberry county, in which the governor was cited to appear in Newberry next Saturday and show cause why his name should not be stricken from the club roll of Ward 5 of Newberry. This, the chief executive explained, would show how far this man whom he branded as a Populist, would go to injure him. He had been a member of the Ward 5 club for more than 20 years, the governor went on, and had represented it in various ways. Most of the governor's speech had to do with "Deasites," those who supported a negro for congress from this district several years ago.

Near the conclusion of his speech some one asked the chief executive what Messrs. Jennings and Pollock were running for. In answer the governor said that their names should not be mentioned in decent company; he never spoke to them. He had not heard either of them speak and never intended to. He did not even come on the platform with them, he explained. He never noticed blatherskites, who poured out blackguardism to get into public office, he answered.

The governor got two bunches of flowers at the conclusion of his speech. One of the most interesting features of the campaign was noticed here today. Stephen Turner, a white man, who was sent up for manslaughter under sentence of ten years in 1912 and pardoned April 6, 1914, was standing directly in front of the stand, nodding his head in approval of the governor's every utterance. Only a few feet away were sitting in a group about 12 Confederate veterans, who volunteered the information to the newspaper men that each was a Smith supporter.

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One of the most interesting features of the campaign was noticed here today. Stephen Turner, a white man, who was sent up for manslaughter under sentence of ten years in 1912 and pardoned April 6, 1914, was standing directly in front of the stand, nodding his head in approval of the governor's every utterance. Only a few feet away were sitting in a group about 12 Confederate veterans, who volunteered the information to the newspaper men that each was a Smith supporter.

The meeting tomorrow will be at Conway, Horry County.